

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

In the Matter of:)
COMPLAINT C2012-032)

William E. Robinson,)
Respondent,)

State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)

DECISION AND ORDER

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

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RECEIVED

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Commission on October 19, 2011. On November 16, 2011, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2010), the State Ethics Commission reviewed for probable cause the above-captioned complaint charging Respondent, William E. Robinson, with a violation of Section 8-13-700(A) and (B).

Present at the meeting were Commission Members E. Kay Biermann-Brohl, Acting Chair, Edward E. Duryea, JB Holeman, Priscilla L. Tanner, George Carlton Manley and Richard H. Fitzgerald. Also present were the Commission's Executive Director, Herbert R. Hayden, Jr., and his immediate staff.

The following allegations were considered:

On October 19, 2011 the State Ethics Commission filed a complaint against William E. Robinson, Council member, Allendale County Council. The complaint alleged that the Respondent participated in the official decision to hire the Respondent's son for a position within Allendale County government. If true, this action would be in violation of Sections 8-13-700 (A) and/or 8-13-700 (B).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Having carefully reviewed the evidence presented, the Commission finds as fact:

1. The Respondent, William E. Robinson, is a member of the Allendale County Council.

2. Allendale County Administrator Timothy Bennett confirmed that Respondent's son, William Robinson, was hired by Allendale County to serve as Assistant EMA Coordinator on August 29, 2011.

3. The minutes of the August 29, 2011 Allendale County Council meeting provided by Timothy Bennett reflect that Councilman Pinkney made a motion to hire William Robinson for Assistant EMA Coordinator. The motion was approved. The minutes show that "Robinson recused his vote".

4. Respondent advised he was serving on the hiring committee of Allendale County Council when the subject of his son's hiring was discussed. Respondent categorically stated he abstained from all discussion and vote on the matter in the hiring committee and also when the matter came up for a vote at a Council meeting.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. The Respondent, William E. Robinson, is a public official as defined by Section 8-13-100(27).

2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

3. Section 8-13-700(A) prohibits a public official from using his official office to obtain an economic interest for a family member.

4. Section 8-13-700(B) prohibits participation by a public official in actions involving the economic interest of a family member.

DECISION

Based upon the evidence presented, the State Ethics Commission has determined that there is not probable cause to indicate that the Respondent, William E. Robinson, violated Section 8-13-700(A) or (B). The Commission has therefore dismissed the charges in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 14th DAY OF December, 2011.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA


E. KAY BIERMANN BROHL
ACTING CHAIR